

Hugh Miall KC

Call: 2009 | Silk: 2026

He is just brilliant; he explains things in a pragmatic way and he is really good at providing support to the client.

Chambers and Partners



Hugh is a standout commercial chancery silk specialising in high-value civil fraud, complex commercial litigation, insolvency, company law and trusts litigation. Known for his mastery of intricate factual and legal issues, commanding advocacy and commercial approach, he is frequently instructed in the most demanding disputes – often involving multi-jurisdictional asset tracing, offshore structures and urgent, high-stakes applications.

Ranked across all his core areas by Chambers and Partners and Legal 500, Hugh is praised for his *“terrific advocacy”*, *“superb strategic judgment”* and as having the *“Midas touch”*. He is recognised for immaculate written work and legal analysis, his powerful, precise and persuasive advocacy and his ability to cut through complexity with clarity and precision.

Clients and solicitors have praised his blend of intellectual acuity, grasp of the detail, commercial instinct and approachability. He is described as *“super bright, down to earth and approachable”*, *“extremely commercial”* and *“highly collaborative”*, with a reputation for going the extra mile and being exceptionally available and supportive. Clients value his incisive judgment and his ability to distil intricate issues into clear and practical advice, whilst focussing on achieving commercial outcomes.

Hugh continues to lead major cases, manage complex litigation teams and shape strategy in disputes of significant importance, both as sole counsel and as part of a wider team. He enjoys working closely with his instructing solicitors and is noted for his work ethic and his ability to turn around substantial work at speed.

Hugh has extensive experience in offshore litigation, and is called to the Bar of the British Virgin Islands. His practice spans major global financial centres, and he is trusted to handle the most sensitive and complex international disputes for businesses, professionals and private individuals alike.

Expertise

ADR

Hugh’s experience as an arbitration advocate includes complex international and high value commercial disputes for individuals and corporate clients across a range of sectors, including oil and gas, banking and financial services, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, manufacturing and aviation. Hugh is familiar with the rules of the major arbitral institutions, including the ICC, ICDR, DIFC- LCIA and the UNCITRAL rules. His arbitration related experience includes:

- Acting for a foreign company in relation to an LCIA arbitration concerning a shareholders' agreement dispute and contested liability to repay loans totalling over \$750m. The case concerned investments in oil and gas entities.
- Acting and advising on a stay of proceedings under s.9 Arbitration Act 1996.
- Advising on whether an arbitral tribunal has jurisdiction in relation to disputes arising in relation to matters exempted from the scope of the relevant contractual arbitration clause.
- Acting in a dispute between family members concerning the contractual division of proceeds of banking litigation.
- Acting in multiple arbitration proceedings between international parties concerning disputes relating to the manufacture and supply of aeronautical components.
- Acting in disputes between international parties concerning the supply and recall of, and defects in the manufacturing processes of, pharmaceutical products.
- Acting for Ukrainian parties in a significant shareholder dispute concerning a commodities related joint venture.
- Acting in an international dispute arising out of an alleged contract for the supply of PPE during the Covid pandemic.

Aviation & Travel

Hugh's commercial practice includes the field of aviation, in relation to both litigation and arbitration. His work in this area overlaps heavily with his expertise in commercial dispute resolution, insolvency and civil fraud. Examples of Hugh's aviation experience include:

- Acting for an owner trustee of a leasing corporation in an action against a Turkish airline following a repudiation of the leases and failure to return the aircraft in serviceable and airworthy condition.
- Successfully representing a Dutch Ryanair pilot at trial in a claim brought by an intermediary management company for damages following his resignation from his post. The claim was dismissed on the basis the damages were claimed pursuant to an unenforceable penalty clause.
- Advising on a dispute and settlement between a major bank, Bahraini leasing and aircraft companies and a Bahraini national.
- Acting for an Isle of Man aircraft purchase and leasing company and its various subsidiaries in claims for breach of fiduciary and non-fiduciary duties, conspiracy, dishonest assistance, conversion and breach of contract against its commercial agent and maintenance company, its foreign subsidiary and its directors.
- Acting in multiple arbitration proceedings between international parties concerning disputes relating to the manufacture and supply of aeronautical components.

Banking & Financial Services Disputes

Hugh has significant experience of acting and advising in relation to cases involving the financial services sector. Such claims include disputes concerning guarantees, indemnities and security rights over property, including issues of receivership as well as significant litigation arising out of commodities trading relationships and mis-selling claims in relation to interest rate hedging products, including swaps, collars and caps, particularly in relation to small businesses. He has also advised financial institutions in relation to factoring agreements and has acted in litigation arising out of the demise of major brokering firms.

Examples of his current and recent experience include:

- Advising liquidators of offshore companies in relation to possible claims concerning unreturned cryptocurrency.
- Acting for a Spanish fund in ongoing litigation with a private equity placement advisor.
- Acting for an investment management firm and its director in a claim brought by a trustee of a family trust bringing claims for breach of contract, fraud, negligence and unlawful means conspiracy in relation to multi-million pound losses allegedly suffered on an investment.
- Acting for the defendants to a multi-million pound claim brought in deceit, negligent misrepresentation, breach of collateral warranty and for contractual remedies concerning an investment into a new banking entity and its progress to obtaining authorisation from the PRA.
- Acting alongside Jersey Advocates in an application for a proprietary injunction in relation to proceedings brought by a former employee and member of an offshore financial group and its other members concerning the latter's attempts to prevent the claimant from receiving due distributions from a particular fund.
- **Societe Generale v Goldas Kuyumculuk Sanayi Ithalat Ihracat AS & Ors [2018] EWCA Civ 1093; [2017] EWHC 667 (Comm)** – Successfully obtained orders striking out claims worth \$0.5Billion, discharging world-wide freezing orders and obtaining an inquiry as to damages for the defendant gold trading and manufacturing companies. The applications concerned failure to serve, abuse of process and want of prosecution. The bank's appeal was largely defeated save on the issue of the order of the inquiry.
- Acting for a foreign insurance company and its liquidator in a claim abroad for over £35m in respect of allegedly unlawful distributions made purportedly as commercial payments to a connected entity.
- **Ward & Ors v Savill & Ors** – Acting for over 100 claimant investors in a complex civil fraud claim worth over £35m in relation to allegedly fraudulent tax avoidance film schemes (each of which was an unregulated collective investment scheme) where the total fraud alleged exceeded £100m.

Civil Fraud & Asset Recovery

Hugh's practice frequently involves complex and high value fraud and asset recovery matters spanning commercial, company, insolvency and tax scheme litigation, both on and offshore, across a variety of sectors including aviation, financial services, commodities and the hospitality industry. Recognised for civil fraud in Legal 500, clients comment that *"he has the Midas touch and can spot winning points that others do not. He combines excellent factual analysis with strong interpersonal skills"* and note that he is an *"excellent junior. Focused and hard working"* who *"has the ability to distil clarity from extreme complexity. He is brilliantly forensic."*

Hugh's fraud expertise includes claims involving deceit, breach of trust, breach of fiduciary duty, dishonest assistance, knowing receipt, conspiracy and conversion and the recovery of assets held on trust. Hugh advises and acts at all stages of the litigation process, from initial advice and pre-action relief through to trial. His experience includes a range of interim remedies, including freezing and proprietary orders, search and seizure orders, anti-suit injunctions and disclosure orders, including Norwich Pharmacal and Bankers Trust applications, and applications to preserve evidence or documents. He has experience of committal proceedings, and seeking warrants of arrest.

His notable experience includes:

- **Li & Ors v Yuan & Anr [2026] EWHC 242 (Comm)** – Acting for the successful claimants in proceedings to enforce PRC judgments totalling over £28m where defences of want of international jurisdiction, breach of natural justice and public

policy were raised. The defendants abandoned several of their defences during trial following cross-examination.

- Lead counsel for two defendants to a £100m+ fraud claim relating to foreign FX trading flows, and involving issues of alleged breaches of contractual, fiduciary and non-fiduciary duties, dishonest assistance and unlawful means conspiracy.
- Acting for an investment management firm and its director in a claim brought by a Luxembourg trustee of a family trust to bring amended claims for breach of contract and unlawful means conspiracy in relation to losses allegedly suffered on an investment. Hugh successfully argued that the original claims, alleging the fraudulent misappropriation of almost £7m of investments by an investment company, was dishonestly brought on a false basis by the Claimant's director and an employee. A without-notice worldwide freezing order was discharged following the first and second defendant's application to discharge for material non-disclosure. Hugh continues to act in a renewed claim against the same parties.
- **Ashley & Anr v Jimenez [2025] EWHC 557 (Ch)** – Acting for the claimants in enforcement proceedings following a fraud judgment seeking examination of a debtor under Part 71, in circumstances where there was a substantial dispute over whether the defendant was medically able to attend Court for examination. Hugh successfully argued that the debtor was fit to attend Court, had breached previous orders to do so including a suspended committal order, and that a warrant should be issued for his arrest.
- Acting for the defendants to a multi-million pound claim brought in deceit, negligent misrepresentation, breach of collateral warranty and for contractual remedies concerning an investment into a new banking entity and its progress to obtaining authorisation from the PRA.
- Acting for a property development franchise company in relation to claims and counterclaims against franchisees in respect of disputes arising under the franchise agreements and associated guarantees, including allegations of fraud and undue influence.
- **Hua She Asset Managements (Shanghai) Co Ltd v Hung (& Ors) [2023] EWHC 2445 (Comm)** – Acting for a judgment creditor of the defendant in charging order proceedings brought by a competing creditor.
- **Hangzhou Jiudang Asset Management Co Ltd & Anr v Kei [2022] EWHC 3265 (Comm)** – Acting for the claimants in a successful summary judgment application for the enforcement of judgments of the Courts of the PRC against an UHNW individual. The decision is the first to consider directly the issue of whether the Protection of Trading Interest Act 1980 rendered the judgments unenforceable in circumstances where the PRC Courts had ordered default interest to be paid under statute in the event of non-payment of the judgment debts.
- **Ward & Ors v K Savill [2021] EWCA Civ 1378; [2020] EWHC 1534 (Ch)** – Acting for the claimants in a proprietary claim over a London property alleged to have been purchased with misappropriated funds. Hugh appeared at both first instance and the Court of Appeal on a key preliminary issue concerning the effects of rescission and declaratory relief in related proceedings.
- Acting for a large corporate group seeking to obtain anti-suit relief overseas in view of an intended restructuring to enable the investigation of fraud claims worth in excess of US\$4.5Bn.
- Acting for a claimant in an offshore aviation dispute seeking compensation for breach of fiduciary duties (including making secret profits) arising out of an agency relationship.
- Being instructed for over 100 Claimant investors in a complex civil fraud claim worth over £35m in relation to allegedly fraudulent tax avoidance film schemes where the total fraud alleged exceeds £100m.
- Acting for the claimant LLCs in various applications in proceedings in the Isle of Man to set aside transactions totalling up to \$50m made by a judgment debtor to IoM companies as transactions defrauding creditors.
- Being instructed for the claimants in proceedings to recover from a company in liquidation monies paid into an escrow account where the initial payment was procured by fraud.
- Advising numerous investors in relation to a multi-million-pound fraudulent carbon-credit trading tax relief scheme

involving companies from numerous jurisdictions including Ireland, Mauritius and the Marshall Islands.

- Obtaining domestic freezing and proprietary injunctions with associated disclosure relief on an ex parte and urgent basis against a former employee of a brewery alleged to have been stealing monies for over 9 years during her employment. Hugh subsequently obtained Bankers Trust disclosure orders against 3 banks which held accounts into which the misappropriated monies were paid.
- **Arcadia Petroleum Ltd v Bosworth & Ors (Commercial Court)** – Acting for two of 10 Defendants in a claim relating to an alleged oil trading fraud presently estimated to be worth in excess of \$300m.
- **JPC SPC 4 & Another v Schools & Others (Chancery Division)** – Acting for one of 15 defendants in a complex £110m claim by the receivers of an offshore fund alleging, inter alia, fraud, breach of fiduciary duty and unlawful means conspiracy, also involving multiple world-wide freezing injunctions. A successful settlement was reached in relation to the represented party.

Commercial Litigation

Much of Hugh's practice focuses on commercial or business disputes and associated applications. His expertise spans a wide range of commercial litigation and arbitration, including contractual disputes, misfeasance, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, conspiracies and other tortious claims. He has been recognised for commercial dispute resolution and commercial chancery by Chambers & Partners and for commercial litigation by The Legal 500 for many years. Client comment *"he's brilliant – incredibly intelligent but also personable and good to work with. He goes the extra mile to be available"* and that *"he is really top notch. With superb strategic judgement, he is very easy to work with."*

Clients praise Hugh's commercial and approachable style, saying that *"his advice is very commercial, he's practical and he distils technical legal issues into clear layman's terms"*, he is *"a first-rate advocate, both on paper and on his feet"* and *"a really effective advocate, who is a very good sounding board throughout the case. He achieves remarkable settlements for clients."*

Hugh works across a variety of sectors, both on and offshore, including aviation, financial services and investments, care homes, health and pharmaceutical, IT/technology (including defence technology), oil, gas and energy, precious metals, travel and leisure. He also has particular experience of the hospitality, music and entertainment industries.

Hugh advises and acts at all stages of the litigation process, from initial advice and pre-action relief through to trial. His experience includes a range of interim remedies, including freezing orders, search and seizure orders, anti-suit injunctions and disclosure orders, including Norwich Pharmacal and Bankers Trust applications.

Hugh also advises and appears for clients in alternative dispute resolution procedures.

Examples of his notable commercial litigation experience include:

- **Li & Ors v Yuan & Anr [2026] EWHC 242 (Comm)** – Acting for the successful claimants in proceedings to enforce PRC judgments totalling over £28m where defences of want of international jurisdiction, breach of natural justice and public policy were raised. The defendants abandoned several of their defences during trial following cross-examination.
- **Adams & Ors v FS Capital Ltd & Ors [2025] EWCA Civ 53; [2023] EWHC 1649 (Ch)** – Successfully representing many hundreds of Claimants in a challenge on a power the sale of loans totalling some £170m made to individuals and assigned into offshore trusts to a third-party finance company both at trial and on appeal.
- Advising commercial entities in relation to a dispute concerning a prestigious racetrack development.
- **Ashley & Anr v Jimenez [2025] EWHC 557 (Ch)** – Acting for the Claimants in enforcement proceedings seeking

examination of a debtor under Part 71, in circumstances where there is a substantial dispute over whether the defendant is medically able to attend Court for examination. Hugh successfully argued that the debtor was fit to attend Court, had breached previous orders to do so, and that a warrant should be issued for his arrest.

- Acting for an investment management firm and its director in a claim brought by a Luxembourg trustee of a family trust to bring amended claims for breach of contract and unlawful means conspiracy in relation to losses allegedly suffered on an investment. Hugh successfully argued that the original claims, alleging the fraudulent misappropriation of almost £7m of investments by an investment company, was dishonestly brought on a false basis by the Claimant's director and an employee. A without-notice worldwide freezing order was discharged following the first and second defendant's application to discharge for material non-disclosure. Hugh continues to act in a renewed claim against the same parties.
- Acting for a property development franchise company in relation to claims and counterclaims against franchisees in respect of disputes arising under the franchise agreements and associated guarantees, including allegations of fraud and undue influence.
- **Baslow Parks Ltd & Anr v Robert Bull (Commercial Court)** – Obtaining summary judgment for the claimants for over £32m in relation to monies due under a settlement agreement. Judgment was successfully obtained despite a bankruptcy order having been made against the defendant by another party two weeks prior to the hearing.
- **Hua She Asset Managements (Shanghai) Co Ltd v Hung (& Ors) [2023] EWHC 2445 (Comm); [2023] Costs L.R. 1583**– Acting for a judgment creditor of the defendant in charging order proceedings brought by a competing creditor.
- Acting for a leading logistics and industrial property consultant in a substantial (£45m+) contractual claim for fees and profit share arising out of the development of a nationally significant logistics and distribution site.
- **Hangzhou Jiudang Asset Management Co Ltd & Anr v Kei [2022] EWHC 3265 (Comm)** – Acting for the successful claimants in an application for summary judgment for the enforcement of judgments of the Courts of the PRC against an UHNW individual. The decision is the first to consider directly the issue of whether the Protection of Trading Interest Act 1980 rendered the judgments unenforceable in circumstances where the PRC Courts had ordered default interest to be paid under statute in the event of non-payment of the judgment debts.
- **Ward & Ors v K Savill [2021] EWCA Civ 1378; [2020] EWHC 1534 (Ch)** – Acting for the claimants in a proprietary claim over a London property alleged to have been purchased with misappropriated funds. Appeared at both first instance and the Court of Appeal on a key preliminary issue concerning the effects of rescission and declaratory relief in related proceedings.
- Acting for a large corporate group seeking to obtain anti-suit relief overseas in view of an intended restructuring to enable the investigation of fraud claims worth in excess of US\$4.5Bn.
- **Lawlor & Ors v Medivet Group Ltd & Anr** – Acting for claimant vets in their partnership disputes with Medivet, one of the largest veterinary services providers in the country.
- Acting for a leading aeronautical company in its multi-£m disputes (leading to multiple LCIA arbitrations) with a sub-contractor relating to the manufacture of aircraft parts.
- **George v McCarthy & Goss Interactive Ltd [2019] EWHC 2939 (Ch)** – Acting for the successful respondent to a long, complicated and aggressive unfair prejudice petition at trial.
- Instructed by a claimant in an offshore aviation dispute seeking compensation for breach of fiduciary duties (including making secret profits) arising out of an agency relationship.
- Acting for litigation funders as assignees of claims against company directors and their associates concerning the misappropriation or misuse of company fund and unlawful dividends.
- Instructed for over 100 claimant investors in a complex civil fraud claim worth over £35m in relation to allegedly fraudulent tax avoidance film schemes.

- Acting as English counsel alongside Jersey Advocates in an application for a proprietary injunction in relation to proceedings brought by a former employee and member of an offshore financial group and its other members concerning the latter's attempts to prevent the claimant from receiving his due distributions from a particular fund.
- **Societe Generale v Goldas Kuyumculuk Sanayi Ithalat Ihracat AS & Ors [2019] 1 WLR 346 (Court of Appeal); [2017] EWHC 667 (Comm)** – Successfully obtaining orders striking out claims worth \$½Bn, discharging world-wide freezing orders and, at first instance, obtaining an inquiry as to damages for the defendant gold trading and manufacturing companies. The subsequent Court of Appeal decision is a leading authority on alternative and dispensation of service and abuse of process.
- Acting for a care home provider in a dispute over a relational (30yr) contract with a local authority.
- Acting for a talent management agency in relation to a claim for breach of contract against a well-known reality TV personality, the latter having left the agency without notice for another agency.
- **Ford v Williams [2018] EWHC 3172 (Comm)** – Acting for the defendant in a successful application to vary a proprietary injunction to permit funds to be raised for legal expenses. Hugh was subsequently instructed for the same party in a dispute concerning the terms of a settlement agreement reached in the original proceedings.
- **O'Keefe & Anr v Caner & Ors (Chancery Division) [2017] EWHC 1105 (Ch)** – Acting for offshore directors and a corporate services provider in claims and Insolvency Act applications by two Jersey companies and their liquidators in relation to allegedly wrongful payments from the companies of c. €34m. A 6-day preliminary issue trial concerned a previously undecided issue of Jersey prescription law.
- Acting for a Panamanian company in contested winding up proceedings (and an ensuring LCIA arbitration) in the British Virgin Islands concerning a \$750m dispute over a joint venture company incorporated to invest in Nigerian Oil entities.
- Acting in a fraud claim, to successfully obtain both domestic freezing and proprietary injunctions with associated disclosure relief on an ex parte and urgent basis against a former employee of the Claimant alleged to have been stealing monies for over 9 years during her employment. Hugh subsequently obtained Bankers Trust disclosure orders against 3 banks which held accounts into which the misappropriated monies were paid.
- **JPC SPC 4 & Another v Schools & Others (Chancery Division)** – Acting for one of 15 Defendants in a complex £110m claim by the receivers of an offshore fund alleging, inter alia, fraud, breach of fiduciary duty and unlawful means conspiracy, also involving multiple world-wide freezing injunctions. A successful settlement was reached in relation to the represented party.

Company Law

Hugh has experience in a wide range of company law matters, particularly within contentious litigation. He is recognised in The Legal 500 for company law, with clients describing him as *"an exceptional advocate, technically excellent, friendly, responsive, pragmatic and willing to go above and beyond"* and *"a very high-quality advocate on paper and on his feet"*. They note that he has *"excellent knowledge of corporate insolvency law, allied to commercial flair"* and *"very good grip of the authorities and superb ability to marshal the facts and present them persuasively."* His expertise includes claims for breach of fiduciary duty, acting both for and against company directors; derivative claims brought against directors; acting in relation to shareholder disputes, including under s.994 Companies Act 2006 and in relation to shareholder agreements. Hugh also advises on company law and procedure generally, and in relation to company-related agreements and corporate documents.

Hugh's company law work often overlaps with his insolvency practice, and he frequently advises liquidators, administrators and directors on both insolvency procedures and company law claims brought in an insolvency context. Hugh has significant experience of defending Company Director Disqualification Act 1986 proceedings, as well as applications for permission to act

under the same legislation.

Additional experience includes winding up petitions, including injunctions restraining presentation of petitions or of advertisement, civil fraud claims in a corporate context and actions for the restoration of companies.

Examples of Hugh's work in this area include:

- **In The Matter of HQP Corporation Ltd (in Official Liquidation) (FSD 190 of 2021 (DDJ)); [2025] CICA (Civ) 19** – Assisted Campbells Cayman LLP, acting for the Petitioners, in a significant decision concerning whether the rule in Houldsworth v City of Glasgow Bank forms a part of Cayman Islands law, and on how shareholder claims rank in the liquidation of insolvency companies.
- **Manolete Partners Plc v Karim & Ors [2024] EWHC 205 (Ch)** – Acting for the successful claimant in proceedings for the recovery of over £5m from former directors of an insolvent company for breach of fiduciary duty and as debts in relation to improper payments, transactions and unlawful dividends.
- Advising liquidators of offshore companies in relation to unreturned cryptocurrency.
- **Inland Limited (In Administration) v Clove Holdings Ltd & Ors** – Acting for a defendant to a claim brought at the behest of administrators seeking to set aside as invalid an equity to debt swap given effect by a capital reduction.
- Acting for the proposed respondent majority shareholder in anticipated multi-million pound unfair prejudice proceedings in Gibraltar.
- Successfully acting for individuals subject to disqualification undertakings under the CDDA 1986 seeking permission to act as directors and members of various incorporated entities in the adult gaming sector.
- Advising the liquidators of a Jersey company in relation to claims against its directors for breach of fiduciary and non-fiduciary duties.
- Advising members of an offshore holiday property club in relation to its constitutional documents and issues of unfair prejudice and just and equitable winding up.
- **George v McCarthy & Anr [2019] EWHC 2939 (Ch)** – Acting for the respondents in a complicated and aggressively prosecuted unfair prejudice petition. After a 7-day trial, Hugh obtained a complete dismissal of the petition.
- **Manolete Partners Plc v Akbar & Ors**– Acting for the claimant litigation funder in claims seeking over £3.5m in damages and restitutionary payments following alleged misappropriation of company assets by its directors.
- Successfully acting for professional directors in the early stages of an intended prosecution by the Secretary of State under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 (CDDA), leading to the proceedings being dropped.
- Advising a corporate client in a dispute arising from the sale of shares in a pub company where rectification of the agreement was sought. Hugh also represented the client at mediation.
- **O'Keefe & Anr v Caner & Ors [2017] EWHC 1105 (Ch)** – Acting for offshore directors and a corporate services provider in claims and Insolvency Act applications by two Jersey companies and their liquidators in relation to allegedly wrongful payments from the companies of c. €34m. A 6-day preliminary issue trial concerned a previously undecided issue of Jersey prescription law.

Insolvency

Hugh's substantial insolvency practice comprises both contentious and non-contentious work, with most of his instructions arising in insolvency litigation. His experience includes both personal and corporate insolvency work, acting for numerous

creditors, debtors, litigation funders and all the major insolvency practices. His work frequently includes asset recovery after bankruptcy or liquidation, claims involving antecedent transactions, misfeasance and wrongful and fraudulent trading and other ancillary matters arising out of winding up proceedings, liquidation and administration as well as all other insolvency procedures including IVAs and CVAs. His work increasingly includes the application of cross-border regulations and foreign insolvencies.

A leader in the practice area Hugh is recommended in both Chambers & Partners and The Legal 500, with clients commenting that *"his grasp of the detail is terrific"* and that he is *"a strategic mastermind"* and is *"an extremely good advocate with excellent in depth knowledge of his area"* and is *"very commercial but also technical at the same time. Bright and approachable."*

Examples of Hugh's work include:

- **Manolete Partners Plc v Karim & Ors [2024] EWHC 205 (Ch)** – Acting for the successful claimant in proceedings for the recovery of over £5m from former directors of an insolvent company for breach of fiduciary duty and as debts in relation to improper payments, transactions and unlawful dividends.
- **Inland Limited (In Administration) v Clove Holdings Ltd & Ors** – Acting for a defendant to a claim brought at the behest of administrators seeking to set aside as invalid an equity to debt swap given effect by a capital reduction.
- **Adams & Ors v FS Capital Ltd & Ors [2025] EWCA Civ 53; [2023] EWHC 1649 (Ch)** – Leading in a successful claim on behalf of many hundreds of claimants in a successful challenge to a fraud on a power the sale of loans totalling some £170m made to individuals and assigned into off-shore trusts to a third-party finance company on the alleged basis that the insolvency of the trusts permitted those transfers. Hugh and James were successful following an 8-day trial, and on appeal.
- Advising the liquidators of a Jersey company in proceedings for damages against its directors for breach of fiduciary and non-fiduciary duties.
- **Manolete Partners Plc v Akbar & Ors** – Instructed for the claimant in an action for over £3.5m in damages and restitution in respect of alleged unlawful transactions and misappropriation of company assets.
- Advising the liquidators of a German company (connected to a significant English insolvent plc) in relation to claims for the recovery of sums paid to former legal advisors.
- **Hinton v Wotherspoon [2022] EWHC 2083 (Ch); [2022] BPIR 1442** – Acting for the successful respondent at the trial of claims brought against her by her husband's trustee in bankruptcy under s.423 IA 1986, s.339 IA 1986 and on the basis of an existing common intention constructive trust.
- Defending claims of c.\$40m brought against offshore directors of insolvency Jersey companies.
- **O'Keefe & Anr v Caner & Ors [2017] EWHC 1105 (Ch)** – Acted (with Terence Mowschenson QC and Nicole Langlois) for offshore directors and a corporate services provider in claims and Insolvency Act applications by two Jersey companies and their liquidators in relation to allegedly wrongful payments from the companies of c. €34m. A 6-day preliminary issue trial of a previously undecided issue of Jersey prescription law took place March 2017.
- Acting in relation to a claim in the Isle of Man to set aside transactions designed to avoid a judgment of over \$50m.
- Advising and acting for a Brazilian shipping company and a Dutch financial services company seeking to recover monies fraudulently misappropriated in an investment fraud from an insolvent escrow agent.
- Advising and acting for liquidators in relation to a complex Employee Benefit Trust being carried on through the company in liquidation.
- Acting for creditors seeking to remove liquidators of a mining company and reverse a critical decision made by them and entered into for reasons of conflict.

International & Offshore

A significant portion of Hugh's work includes international or offshore elements and he is called to the Bar of the BVI. He has previously been involved in litigation concerning the BVI, Cayman Islands, Channel Islands, Gibraltar, Isle of Man and Switzerland. He is recommended for offshore commercial disputes by Legal 500. His experience includes:

- **Adams & Ors v FS Capital Ltd & Ors [2025] EWCA Civ 53; [2023] EWHC 1649 (Ch)** – Leading James Fennemore in a claim on behalf of many hundreds of claimants in successfully challenging as a fraud on a power the sale of loans totalling some £170m made to individuals and assigned into Jersey trusts to a third-party finance company on the alleged basis that the insolvency of the trusts permitted those transfers. Hugh and James were successful following an 8-day trial involving substantive issues of Jersey trusts law and on appeal.
- Acting in relation to significant unfair prejudice petition proceedings relating to a Gibraltar company.
- Acting in relation to a claim in the Isle of Man to set aside transactions designed to avoid a judgment of over \$50m.
- Acting for the proposed respondent majority shareholder in anticipated multi-million pound unfair prejudice proceedings in Gibraltar.
- **In The Matter of HQP Corporation Ltd (in Official Liquidation) (FSD 190 of 2021 (DDJ)); [2025] CICA (Civ) 19** – Assisted Campbells Cayman LLP, acting for the Petitioners, in a significant decision concerning whether the rule in Houldsworth v City of Glasgow Bank forms a part of Cayman Islands law, and on how shareholder claims rank in the liquidation of insolvency companies.
- Acting for the liquidators of a Jersey company in relation to proceedings for damages against its directors for breach of fiduciary and non-fiduciary duties.
- Advising an offshore fiduciary services company on the replacement of a manager of a unit trust.
- Acting for an Isle of Man aircraft purchase and leasing company and its various subsidiaries in claims for breach of fiduciary and non-fiduciary duties, conspiracy, dishonest assistance, conversion and breach of contract against its commercial agent and maintenance company, its foreign subsidiary and its directors.
- Advising members of an offshore holiday property club in relation to its constitutional documents and issues of unfair prejudice and just and equitable winding up.
- Advising in relation to an application in Bahamian proceedings to strike out proceedings for want of prosecution and abuse of process.
- Advising and acting for Jersey directors in a claim brought against them for wrongly causing or permitting significant payments to be made to or for the benefit of a specific individual.
- Acting for an Isle of Man aircraft purchase and leasing company and its various subsidiaries in claims for breach of fiduciary and non-fiduciary duties, conspiracy, dishonest assistance, conversion and breach of contract against its commercial agent and maintenance company, its foreign subsidiary and its directors.
- **O'Keefe & Anr v Caner & Ors (Chancery Division) – [2017] EWHC 1105 (Ch)**. Acting for offshore directors and a corporate services provider in claims and Insolvency Act applications by two Jersey companies and their liquidators in relation to allegedly wrongful payments from the companies of c. €34m. A six-day preliminary issue trial concerned a previously undecided issue of Jersey prescription law.
- Acting for a Panamanian company in contested winding up proceedings (and an ensuring LCIA arbitration) in the British Virgin Islands concerning a joint venture company incorporated to invest in Nigerian Oil entities.
- **Blackstar (Isle of Man) Ltd v Imperium Trust Company Ltd & Ors [2016] EWHC 3216 (Ch)** – Acting for the defendant at

the trial of the claims between off-shore trust entities for the costs of litigation relating to the management of EBTs said to be due under contractual indemnities.

Partnership Law

Hugh's commercial chancery practice covers all areas of partnership law, spanning traditional 1890 Act partnerships, LLPs and joint ventures which raise issues of the existence of partnerships. He specialises in litigation arising out of disputes between partners and the breakdown or insolvency of partnerships but is also frequently asked to advise on discrete areas of partnership law acting for professional firms as well as family or individual clients. Hugh is recommended by both Chambers and Partners and the Legal 500 as a leading barrister, with clients commenting that *"Hugh is a superb advocate – he fights and wins in interlocutory applications in complex cases and is excellent in court"* and that he *"is great and like a member of our own team. Our clients really trust him. He's highly commercial, but also very personable and human."*

Examples of Hugh's experience in this area include:

- **Lawlor & Ors v Medivet Group Ltd & Anr** – Instructed for tens of claimant vets in their partnership dispute with Medivet, one of the largest veterinary services providers in the country. The matter settled shortly before a 3-week trial.
- **Bugden v Grosvenor Partners LLP & Anr** – Acting for the defendants in a claim for an account and raising extensive allegations of wrongdoing, the action being dismissed after trial.
- Advising the trustee in bankruptcy of two former partners of an 1890 Act Partnership on the existence and priority of certain debts following a PVA and IVA of one of the partners.
- Successfully appearing for members of various LLPs in a complicated application seeking permission to act following the giving of disqualification undertakings.
- Advising on the issues of prospective liability of members of a number of LLPs to make contributions to those LLPs pursuant to respective partnership agreements.
- Acting for several partners against a former partner seeking declaratory relief and a final injunction restraining conduct in relation to a breach of restrictive covenant contained in a Deed of Retirement following the cessation of the partnership.
- Acting in a claim seeking an order dissolving a partnership together with an account and associated relief.
- **Contested BVI winding-up proceedings and LCIA Arbitration** – Acting for a Panamanian company in contested winding up proceedings (and an ensuing LCIA arbitration) in the British Virgin Islands concerning a joint venture company incorporated to invest in Nigerian Oil entities.
- Acting for the claimant in a dispute between brothers and Marshall Islands companies concerning interests in property in England, allegations of sham charges and Dubai based partnership agreements. The 10-day trial included questions of the application of both substantive and procedural Dubai/UAE Law.

Trust Litigation

Hugh's practice encompasses contentious litigation relating to trusts, including claims by and against trustees or directors of companies within trust structures and corporate trustee companies, litigation between trusts and third parties, interim applications concerning trusts and in relation to the recovery of assets held both on and offshore in trust (whether express trusts or as a result of other actions, such as knowing receipt).

Many of the commercial and fraud claims Hugh is instructed on include trust issues or the recovery of assets held in various forms of trust, a number of which arise in the offshore context. Hugh has also acted in relation to fraud claims arising out of the insolvency of offshore protected cell companies, and has experience of a number of other complex issues concerning trusts including insolvent trust, transactions for improper purposes and questions of limitation.

Aside from those cases already mentioned in above sections which include trusts issues, notable work experience includes:

- **Adams & Ors v FS Capital Ltd & Ors [2025] EWCA Civ 53; [2023] EWHC 1649 (Ch)**– Leading James Fennemore in a claim (for many hundreds of claimants) to successfully challenge as a fraud on a power the sale of loans totalling some £170m made to individuals and assigned into Jersey trusts to a third-party finance company on the alleged basis that the insolvency of the trusts permitted those transfers. Hugh and James were successful following an 8-day trial involving substantive issues of Jersey trusts law and on appeal.
- Acting for an investment management firm and its director in a claim brought by a Luxembourg trustee of a foreign law family trust to bring amended claims for breach of contract and unlawful means conspiracy in relation to losses allegedly suffered on an investment.
- Advising an offshore fiduciary services company on the replacement of a manager of a unit trust.
- Acting for the personal representative of a deceased's estate in against the executor of the estate of the deceased's mother, in contentious accounts proceedings concerning the whereabouts of over £1m in cash brought into the jurisdiction from Switzerland.
- **O'Keefe & Anr v Caner & Ors (Chancery Division) – [2017] EWHC 1105 (Ch)**. Acting for offshore directors and a corporate services provider in claims and Insolvency Act applications by two Jersey companies and their liquidators in relation to allegedly wrongful payments from the companies of c. €34m. A six-day preliminary issue trial concerned a previously undecided issue of Jersey prescription law.
- **Blackstar (Isle of Man) Ltd v Imperium Trust Company Ltd & Ors [2016] EWHC 3216 (Ch)**– Acting for the defendant trust company at the trial of the claims for the costs of litigation relating to the management of EBTs said to be due under contractual indemnities (with Bajul Shah).

Publications and Articles

Hugh has contributed to Corporate Rescue and Insolvency journal: The Inadvertent Trustee: Handling Trust Assets as an Office-holder – (2015) 1 CRI 6.

Academic History

- Lincoln's Inn (Lord Mansfield Scholarship, Buchanan Prize, Hardwicke Entrance Award)
- MA (Hons) Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge (Choral Scholarship, Academic Scholarship, Tapp Postgraduate Scholarship, 3 Verulam Buildings Prize for Trusts and Equity in University Finals)
- Hugh has contributed to Corporate Rescue and Insolvency journal: The Inadvertent Trustee: Handling Trust Assets as an Office-holder – (2015) 1 CRI 6.BVC at BBP Law School (Outstanding, joint-highest mark in year)

Professional Memberships

- ChBA (The Chancery Bar Association)
- COMBAR (The Commercial Bar Association)
- Commercial Fraud Lawyers Association
- Contentious Trusts Association (ConTrA)
- Volunteer for the Personal Insolvency Lawyers Advice and Representation Scheme (PILARS)
- Denning Society of Lincoln's Inn

Lecture and Seminars

Hugh is regularly asked to deliver lecture and seminars to clients and professional associations on issues arising across his practice areas. Details of upcoming events, topics and Hugh's availability can be obtained from the practice management team at clerks@xxiv.co.uk or the marketing team at events@xxiv.co.uk.

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